

"I say, Cap'n here's trouble!"

"What is it, Dick?" inquired Eugene, starting to his feet.

"Don't you see that's a heavy fog rising? That'll soon kiver us up so thick that we won't be able to tell a white man from a black one."

"alright?" replied the boatman—Dick W. by name—a tall, bony muscular, white specimen of his class.

"Good heaven so there is!" exclaimed Eugene, looking off among the already very dense crowd. "I must have gathered very early, for all this was clear a minute ago."

"What is to be done now? This is something I was not prepared for, on such a day as this."

"It looks troublesome," Cap'n Bill allowed. Dick; "but we'll have to fort, the boat and I suppose we'll have to make the best of it."

"But what is to be done if—what do advise?" asked Eugene, in a quick, excited tone, that indicated some degree of alarm.

"Why, of your warn't so skeered as you

"No, no," said Eugene, positively; "I will never do, Dick—that will never do. I would not think of such a thing for a moment! We must keep in the current by means!"

"If you can," rejoined the boatman; "when it gets so dark that you can't tell anything from 'tother, 't'll be powerful hard too; and ef we don't run agin a bar or boulder afore morning, in spite of the best of 't'll be the luckiest go I ever had a hand at."

See, Cap'n—his thickening up fast; can't see neither bank at all, nor the water; the water, is getting low, so that it looks as if there was a cloud all round us."

"I see!" said Eugene excitedly: "Mortal Heaven! I hope no accident will fall on us here—and yet, my heart almost melts with grief, to think of the dangers of our journey—the victims where most of our boats have been capsized by the savages."

Saying this, Eugene hastened back to the others, and the other hunters seemed so awfully me to require considerable effort on his part, to wake them. At last, getting them fairly roused, he informed them, that in a whisper, for he did not care to disturb the sleeping men, he had just seen a boat immediately, and he wished their presence on board.

"A fig, Cap'n," exclaimed one, in a tone which indicated that he comprehended the peril with the word.

"Hush!" returned Eugene; "there is no necessity for waking the others, and a wiser course is to follow me without a word." Up and follow me without a word. The most immediately joined by the boatmen, who when he bravely made known his hopes, were in a state of fear.

They thought, like their companions, that the boat would be safest if made fast to the overhanging limb of the Kentucky oak, and but frankly admitted that this could not be done without difficulty and danger, and that there was a possibility of keeping out of the water.

"There make that possible a certainty,"

"We'll do the best we can, Cap'n," he responded; "but no man can be at the helm of this here croaked steamer on a foggy night."

A long silence followed—the voyagers slowly dipping down through a misty sea impenetrable to the eye—when, suddenly, a young commander, who was standing near the bow, felt the entire branch of an overhanging limb slip and bruise his face. He started, with an exclamation of alarm, and at the same moment a woman on the deck called out:

"Quick! the voyagers! they're again the same as sure as death!"

Then followed a scene of hurried, anxious confusion, the voices of the boatmen mingling together in loud, quick exclamations:

"Push off the bow!" cried one.

"Quick! altogether, now, over with it!" shouted another.

"The devil's in it! she's running aground here! it's muddy bottom!" almost yelled a third.

Meanwhile the laden boat was being

along against projecting bushes and reaching limbs, and every moment more and more entangled while the poles and sweeps of the battlements and the battlements themselves often without touching bottom, into what was to be a soft, clayey mud, from which were only extricated by such an out strength as tended still more to draw out the mud, and so the men, in the length, scarcely more than a minute the first alarm, there was a kind of set together, as it were, and the boat floated and immovable.

The fact was announced by Dick the boatman in a dramatic manner—who with an oath, that it was just what he expected. For a moment or two a dead silence followed, as if each comprehended the matter was one to be viewed in a serious manner.

"I'll get over the bow, and try to glide by of the land with my feet," said Harris; and forthwith he set about the very pleasant undertaking.

At this moment Egskeld heard his progress, and that he bellowed: "I now excite a peculiar emotion in his breast, and now sent a strange thrill through every

and listening below, he found Blanche, dressed, with a light in her hand, standing in the open doorway, looking at the sage which led through the corner of the boat.

"I have heard something, Eugene," said, "ought to know we have met, accident, but not sufficient to cause a hand its nature."

"I am very, about two hours ago," replied Eugene, "we suddenly became involved in a dense fog, and in spite of our protection and care, we have run aground—it is against the Ohio shore—it may be as good as an island—it is so dark we can't tell where we are," said Blanche, "I have added; I trust we shall soon be able to get out of this, but I am not sure, though in any event, the darkness is certain to conceal us from the savages, it is better we stay in the vicinity."

"We know little of Indians," returned Blanche, "I have always understood that they are somewhat remarkable for acuteness of hearing; and if such is the case there would be no necessity of their being very near, to be made acquainted with locally, judging from the loud voices I have heard."

"I fear we've been rather imprudent," said Eugene, in a deprecating tone; the excitement.

His words were suddenly cut short by the loud voices of alarm from without, fol-